



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

September 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

October 10: Meshtastic and MOTUS presentation by Rick Nicholson, N9UMJ **VIA ZOOM**

October 25: W9JP Club POTA Event at Fort Harrison State Park

November 14: Drone presentation by Noy Winzigster, KE9DBN **IN-PERSON**

Highlights from the September Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by IRC President, David Spoelstra, N9KT. David started with self-introductions. There were 36 in attendance. David reviewed the August club POTA event and went over the upcoming September POTA event [**details in this newsletter**]. There was discussion following up on the recent on-line discussions regarding possible new Amateur Radio license plates in Indiana. K9RU said the current arrangement of the \$8 extra charge dates back to the early 1950s. If we want a new plate, the cost would be around \$95 extra per plate, after paying to have the plates made.

Next, David introduced the evening's presenters, Jim Brown, W0RLD and Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR. Jim showed some and explained some things he has printed for the hobby. Kyle talked about CW key designs available on-line at the Thingiverse website (<https://www.thingiverse.com/>). Kyle went over some of the basics that are required to get into 3D printing, such as a printer, filament, and a design file (.stl). Jim talked about how the printer and computer interoperate.

Kyle and Jim talked about different software options. [TinkerCAD](#) is a good, free software option for designing items to print. Once a design is made, it has to be run through “slicer” software, which interprets the design into commands the printer uses. Filament materials were discussed. PLA is the cheapest and best for proto-typing designs. PTEG is more expensive, but more durable and a better option for items used outdoors. There are other types of filament, but some require different print heads and higher temperature. A consideration when selecting filament for antenna projects is how they interact with RF. A major consideration when thinking of printer location is ventilation because some filament types produce noxious fumes during printing.

Brands of printers was discussed. [Crealitiy](#) has a good relatively low-cost line, but also has limited support. [Prusa](#) is a good mid-cost option with several form factors and offering great support with updates often. There are lots of good support groups on-line. “Beginner” 3D printers can be had for \$200 to \$300. There are numerous vendors for 3D printers and supplies, such as Amazon, Micro-Center, and New Egg. [3DFuel](#) is a good source for filament. Jim and Kyle discussed necessary tools, with a micrometer and metric tape measure being top on the list. Isopropyl alcohol of 80% or higher strength is needed for cleaning the print head. There were several good questions and suggestions from those present.

Bryce, N9WF won the drawing for the \$25 DX Engineering gift certificate. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Ham Radio News:

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER W9JP POTA RE-CAPS

On Saturday, August 23, the Indianapolis Radio Club held a club Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event at Fort Harrison State Park. It was a nice day in the park, with temperatures in the lower 80s. There were 14 hams that attended. Of those 14, 11 were IRC members, with one of them joining the club the following week. Six operators made 159 contacts. Some pictures from the day can be found [here](#).

On Saturday, September 13, we held another POTA operating event at Fort Harrison State Park. Despite some rain earlier in the day, 11 attended, including 9 IRC members. There were 112 contacts made, including several made by W0RLD’s grandson. Pictures can be found [here](#) from this day’s operation.

OCTOBER 25 IS THE NEXT CLUB POTA EVENT

The next Indianapolis Radio Club Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event will be Saturday, October 25 at Fort Harrison State Park. We will plan to be on the air by noon with 2 HF stations. We will be set up at our normal spot, in front of the Visitor Center. If you have heard of the POTA program, but not been able to take part, this is your chance! Even if you're not licensed for HF, there will be control operators on site to help get you on the air. Both radios will have 2 positions, one for the operator and one for a logger, in case you need help logging. As usual, we will be using the club's callsign of W9JP, but if you're registered with the POTA system, you will get credit for the QSOs you make. So, if you're new to HF or POTA, or even if you're an experienced operator, stop by on October 25. We'll try to make sure the new operators get a chance to get on the air, but with 2 radios, anyone that wants to get on should be able to.

This event is open to everyone, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE IRC** to attend. As usual, we will have coffee, donuts, and water available for refreshments. Even if you don't want to operate, just stop on by to chat with everyone.

IRC VE TEST SESSION RESULTS

1 candidate attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 7/12/2025. 1 new ham earned their first license. Thanks to Jim Rinehart K9RU, Steve Tharp K9MD, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Jim Brown W0RLD, Dave Rodgers KB9YYM, Ken Bandy KJ9B, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

2 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 8/9/2025. 1 new ham earned their first license. 1 ham upgraded from general to extra. Thanks to Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Jim Brown W0RLD, Steve Tharp K9MD, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

3 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 9/13/2025. 1 new ham earned their first license and 2 hams upgraded. Thanks to Ken Bandy KJ9B, Dave Rogers KB9YYM, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Jim Rinehart K9RU, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE IRC

You can support the Indianapolis Radio Club in any, or all, of these four ways:

1. Join the club. Your annual membership dues (\$20 for an individual, \$30 for a family (in the same household), or \$10 for a student, with valid ID) help support the club in its mission to promote our hobby by sponsoring monthly VE testing sessions, reaching out to new licensees, and welcoming them to the hobby. The easiest way to join is to go to <https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment> and complete the process through PayPal.
2. Pay your ARRL membership dues through the IRC, utilizing the Club Commission program. The club will get a \$5 commission for renewals, or a \$20 commission for new memberships. Fill out the form available at <https://tinyurl.com/ARRL-membership-form> and send it, along with payment, to club treasurer, KJ9B. Or fill out one of the forms at an in-person meeting.
3. Join the Kroger Community Rewards program (it's free!) by going to <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> and designating the Indianapolis Radio Club as the charity you want to support. The club then gets a quarterly donation from Kroger based on a percentage of the amount spent by those supporting the club.
4. If applicable, donate part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to the Indianapolis Radio Club, a 501(c)(3) charity.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact Ken Bandy, KJ9B, at treasurer@indyradioclub.org.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE "WELCOME NET" - INDY

The Welcome (to Amateur Radio) Net - Indy continues to meet on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm on the 146.97 W9ICE repeater (107.2 Hz tone required). The Welcome Net - Indy, supported by the Indianapolis Radio Club, is designed to help new hams get over "mic fright" and get more comfortable on the radio. Welcome Nets are run as "conversational" nets, where after checking in, a topic for discussion is presented by the Net Control station. The majority of net control and logging stations involved with running the Welcome Net - Indy are relatively new hams, most being licensed for less than 5 years. Even though Welcome Nets are designed for new hams, everyone is welcomed and encouraged to take part. If you would like more info on Welcome Nets, send a note to elmer@indyradioclub.org.

ENCOURAGE YOUR REPS TO PASS HOA BILLS

If you're an ARRL member, in the past few days, you have probably seen an email or two regarding sending a message to your Congressional representatives regarding passage of bills H.R.1094 and S.459, the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. It is very simple to show your support for these bills. Just go to <https://www.arrl.org/HOA> and enter your callsign where prompted. Your information will be automatically entered in the form. Then all you need to do is hit the "SEND" button, and you're done! Your letters will be generated and sent to your representatives on your behalf.

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: Oct 04 2025
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William F. Wootton
(812) 327-5457
Email: KC9ACL@ARRL.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: First United Church
2420 E 3rd St
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46254
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club
Date: Oct 11 2025
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: James Kajder
(505) 228-3704
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd

Register or Call ahead
Indianapolis IN 46254

Franklin IN 46131-9733
Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
Date: Oct 18 2025
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick
(317) 432-7095
Email: vetestingmarc@yahoo.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Johnson County REMC Building
750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733
Website: <https://midstatehams.org/>

Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES
Date: Oct 18 2025
Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Joseph March
(317) 224-9433
Email: joe.march@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Sheriff's Training Room
CALL AHEAD
18100 Cumberland Rd
Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Website: <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/908/RACES>

Anderson IN 46016
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Oct 21 2025
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Madison County EMA EOC
300 N. Delaware St
GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the September, 1960 *Amateuer*:

OFFICIAL BULLETIN 760

FCC continues to cite amateurs for radiation of harmonics from amateur stations in frequency ranges outside the amateur bands. Friendly ARRL Official Observer reports still continue to be sent out for the FCC violations. Amateurs, especially those newly licensed, are urged to check to make sure their transmitters and antennas are radiating at the desired frequency, rather than at any harmonic. Consult Chapter 23 of the Amateur Radio Handbook for assistance in curbing harmonics.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Shelbyville Tailgate: October 4, 8:00 am to Noon at the Shelby County Fairgrounds. More information at <https://brvars.com/2024/08/shelbyville-tailgate-2024/>

- **Hamtober Fest: October 18, 7:00 am to Noon Central Time** (8:00 am to 1:00 pm Indy time) at the Lynnville Community Center in Lynnville, IN. Go to <http://hamtoberfest.com/> for more info.

2025 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Jim Brown, WØRLD - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Dave Miller, K9RTT – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org

To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone:

